

The growth of Las Vegas is a fact that has been recorded on many occasions. It has been dramatic. That growth could not have occurred if McCarran International had not kept pace and indeed anticipated the phenomenal tourism growth in southern Nevada. We salute McCarran on the 50th anniversary of its establishment. It has become an international gateway to the entertainment capital of the world. We are sure it was the farsighted leadership that has been provided in the past and its present expansion that will allow McCarran to continue to enjoy another 50 years of service to the community and to the millions of people who arrive by air each year making Las Vegas their destination.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 9, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,493,569,839,079.81 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-three billion, five hundred sixty-nine million, eight hundred thirty-nine thousand, seventy-nine dollars and eighty-one cents).

One year ago, June 9, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,348,704,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred forty-eight billion, seven hundred four million).

Five years ago, June 9, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,300,363,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred billion, three hundred sixty-three million).

Ten years ago, June 9, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,534,222,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred thirty-four billion, two hundred twenty-two million).

Fifteen years ago, June 9, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,309,407,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred nine billion, four hundred seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,184,162,839,079.81 (Four trillion, one hundred eighty-four billion, one hundred sixty-two million, eight hundred thirty-nine thousand, seventy-nine dollars and eighty-one cents) during the past 15 years.

TEST BAN TREATY—35TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, thirty-five years ago today, in his commencement address to the graduating class of The American University in 1963, President Kennedy announced his support for a comprehensive nuclear test ban. As he said on that occasion:

The conclusion of such a treaty, so near and yet so far, would check the spiraling arms race in one of its most dangerous areas. It would place the nuclear powers in a position to deal more effectively with one of the greatest hazards which man faces in 1963, the further spread of nuclear arms. It would increase our security—it would decrease the prospects of war. Surely this goal is sufficiently important to require our steady pursuit, yielding neither to the temptation to give up the whole effort nor the temptation to give up our insistence on vital and responsible safeguards.

In the weeks that followed, President Kennedy secured one of the most important of successes of his New Frontier—the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty.

But, today, 35 years later, we still have not achieved the larger goal of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Especially in the wake of the recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, we need to do all we can to achieve the rapid ratification of this important treaty.

The arguments in favor of the CTBT are stronger and more important than ever. The recent tests are a reminder that the greatest threat to humanity is still the danger of nuclear war.

The end of the Cold War has presented us with a unique opportunity to step back from the nuclear brink and end nuclear testing worldwide. A Comprehensive Test Ban now would also end the current discrepancy between the world's recognized nuclear states which are permitted to test and the rest of the world's countries which are not. The Senate can take the lead in creating a more secure world by putting the United States in the front of the international effort to achieve a Comprehensive Test Ban.

This is the right time for the CTBT. We no longer need to develop more powerful or more accurate nuclear weapons to deter the nations of the former Soviet Union, or any other nuclear-capable state. Through the Stockpile Stewardship Program, we are learning more each day about how to keep our nuclear arsenal safe and reliable without testing.

One-hundred and forty-nine nations around the world have already signed the CTBT, including all five of the recognized nuclear states. The United States signed it in September 1996, but the Senate has not yet ratified it.

President Kennedy said it best 35 years ago when he told the students at American University, “. . . in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.”

I urge the Senate to act on the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The most important single step we can take today to reduce the dangers of nuclear war.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1635. An act to establish within the United States National Park Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3520. An act to adjust the boundaries of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and the adjacent Wenatchee National Forest in the State of Washington.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill,

with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1990. An act to establish a commission to examine issues pertaining to the disposition of Holocaust-era assets in the United States before, during, and after World War II, and to make recommendations to the President on further action, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 270. Concurrent resolution acknowledging Taiwan's desire to play a positive role in the current Asian financial crisis and affirming the support of the American people for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 423. An act to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to honor George Mason.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2709) to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, and to implement to obligations of the United States under the Chemical Weapons Conventions.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2709. An act to improve certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, and to implement to obligations of the United States under the Chemical Weapons Conventions.

H.R. 3811. An act to establish felony violations for the failure to pay legal child support obligations, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1635. An act to establish within the United States National Park Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 270. Concurrent resolution acknowledging Taiwan's desire to play a positive role in the current Asian financial crisis and affirming the support of the American people for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times, and placed on the calendar: